



**Intergovernmental and Aboriginal
Affairs Secretariat**

Annual Report 2011- 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. The report highlights the activities and outcomes during the past fiscal year from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012. As the Minister for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, I acknowledge the accountability for the preparation of this report and the results reported herein.

The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat is a newly established entity of Executive Council, responsible for coordinating the Provincial Government's intergovernmental policies and strategies, managing all government's activities related to Aboriginal affairs, managing federal-provincial agreements and negotiating land claims.

This past year was a very important one for the Labrador Innu, the Provincial Government and the Federal Government. On November 18, 2011 the New Dawn Agreements were signed which hold the potential to profoundly and positively impact the future of the Innu in Labrador.

The Secretariat also played lead and partnership roles to advance the Provincial Government's interest in fulfilling our goals regarding 5 Wing Goose Bay, federal presence in the province and the Premier's participation in the Council of the Federation.

I look forward to the next year and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of my predecessors who served for the first half of the reporting period; Dave Denine, who served as Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and Patty Pottle, who served as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick McGrath".

NICK McGRATH, M.H.A.
Labrador West
Minister

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OVERVIEW AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

On October 28, 2011 Premier Dunderdale announced the amalgamation of the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat with Aboriginal Affairs, creating a new Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. The new Secretariat has prepared and tabled a strategic plan for 2011-14 in the House of Assembly to appropriately reflect the recent realignment of services.

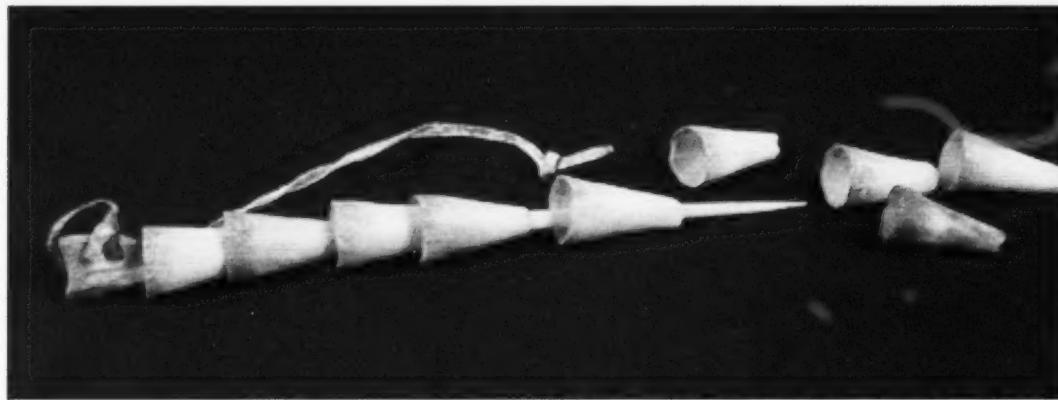
The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (the Secretariat or IGAA) has two branches: Intergovernmental Affairs and Aboriginal Affairs.

The Secretariat leads the formulation of government's intergovernmental and Aboriginal policies and strategies, while monitoring and coordinating interdepartmental initiatives to ensure their consistent application. This includes recommending strategic approaches to federal-provincial-territorial and Aboriginal relations and negotiating and implementing intergovernmental and Aboriginal agreements in consultation with relevant departments. The Secretariat is also responsible for policy areas that do not fall under the responsibility of other entities and are usually in federal constitutional jurisdiction, including defence and foreign affairs.

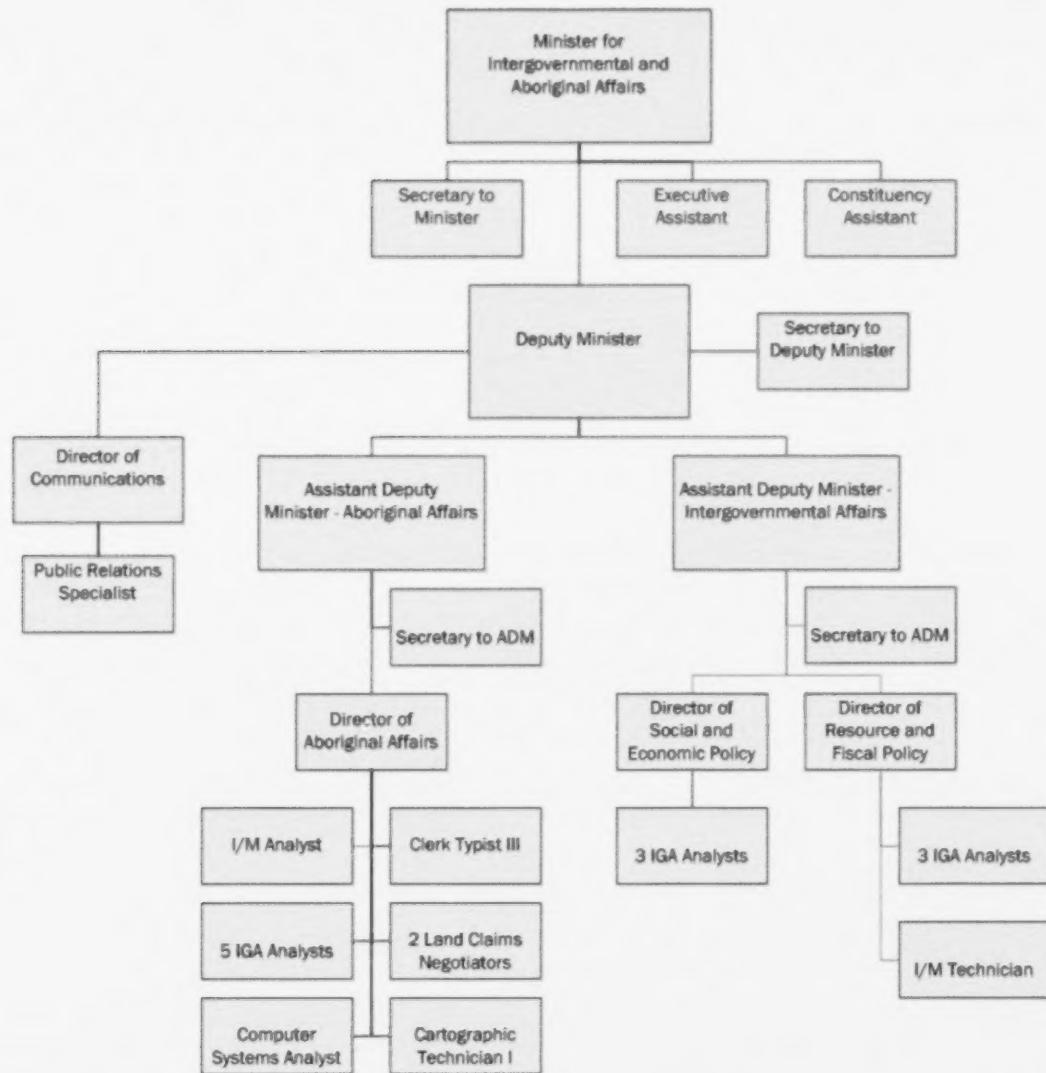
Number of Employees

As of March 31, 2012, 27 people (15 males and 12 females) staff the Secretariat, not including the Minister's office and vacancies. They have offices in the Confederation Building, St. John's on both the 6th and 7th Floors, East Block.

The organization chart on the following page outlines the structure of the Secretariat.



Inuit Cup and Pin game (Photo courtesy of The Rooms)



MANDATE

The mandate of the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat is derived primarily from the *Intergovernmental Affairs Act*, and relevant provisions from the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs notice under the *Executive Council Act*. The Secretariat's mandate is to:

- participate and be a party to the negotiation of all proposed intergovernmental agreements, as well as negotiate and ensure the effective implementation of land claims, self-government and other agreements related to Aboriginal governments and organizations;
- coordinate and develop the policies, programs and activities of the government and its agencies that support Aboriginal and intergovernmental issues and relations in the province;
- continually monitor, review and evaluate the policies, programs, activities and services of the government and its agencies ensuring the perspectives of Aboriginal people are considered;
- continually monitor, review and evaluate the policies, programs, activities and services of the government and its agencies in relation to intergovernmental relations;
- advance the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal people in the province;
- provide public information and education in matters related to land claims;
- promote the military diversification and long-term operation of 5 Wing Goose Bay;
- act as the point of contact for the Federal Government where no analogous provincial department exists and the lead entity for the development of intergovernmental policy; and
- take necessary action to initiate, maintain or improve intergovernmental co-operation between the government of the province and sovereign governments.

LINES OF BUSINESS

The Secretariat is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of provincial policies and associated agreements respecting intergovernmental and Aboriginal issues.

Intergovernmental Affairs

Policy and Planning: The Secretariat is responsible for monitoring and analyzing intergovernmental dimensions of constitutional, social, fiscal, economic and resource policy matters in order to formulate and provide policy advice on the development of government's intergovernmental strategy and agenda. The Secretariat has a legislated mandate to be a party to all intergovernmental agreements on behalf of the province. This ensures strong policy continuity across different policy areas to achieve the best results for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Social and Economic Policy: Policy formulation derives from an ongoing review and analysis of all intergovernmental issues relating to social and economic matters. These issues include education; immigration; labour market programs; health; social services; women's policy; housing; justice; internal and international trade; industry and economic development; transportation/infrastructure; emergency preparedness; protocol; foreign affairs; innovation; research and development; child, youth and family services policy; and national defence. It is also responsible for the identification and analysis of the province's intergovernmental priorities.

Resource and Fiscal Policy: Policy formulation derives from an ongoing review and analysis of all intergovernmental issues relating to constitutional issues, fiscal and resource policy matters. These issues include federal presence; fisheries and oceans; agriculture; environment; tourism, culture and recreation; parks; forestry; energy; mining; wildlife; government services; crown lands; and, fiscal arrangements. It is also responsible for the identification and analysis of the province's intergovernmental priorities.

Support and Coordination: The Secretariat builds relationships with other governments and international entities to advance the province's interests. The Secretariat advocates for Newfoundland and Labrador at bilateral, multilateral, regional and international intergovernmental meetings and conferences to promote Newfoundland and Labrador's positions on matters of importance to this province. The Secretariat further promotes the province's interests by assisting entities in their participation in intergovernmental meetings and negotiations, and their negotiation of intergovernmental agreements.

In lieu of a provincial department of defence, the Secretariat acts as a liaison for military officials and community stakeholders while representing the provincial interest. In recent years, defence activity has focused on training by allied forces at 5

Wing Goose Bay, working with the Department of National Defence (DND) on mutual issues of interest and advocating for improved search and rescue capabilities across all marine industries.

International activities also fall within the responsibility of the Secretariat. The Secretariat is responsible for the coordination of policies, programs and activities of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in relation to other sovereign governments.

Aboriginal Affairs

Policy and Planning: The Secretariat, in collaboration with other provincial public entities, negotiates and implements agreements with the Federal Government and Aboriginal governments and organizations; liaises with other jurisdictions and provincial/national Aboriginal organizations; and manages intergovernmental relations with respect to Aboriginal issues.

In doing so, the Secretariat aims to ensure that provincial policies, programs and services consider the views of Aboriginal people in the province, mainly through the provision of advice to provincial departments and agencies and participation in provincial horizontal initiatives. It also participates in inter-jurisdictional working groups and committees, including with national Aboriginal organizations, to advance Aboriginal interests.

Land Claims, Self-Government and Other Agreements: The Secretariat represents the province in negotiations with the Federal Government and Aboriginal governments / organizations towards land claims, self-government, devolution and other agreements. The Secretariat is responsible for ensuring the implementation and management of these agreements, and providing leadership and advice with respect to any duty to consult Aboriginal organizations that may be owed by the Provincial Crown.

Support and Coordination: The Secretariat assists and co-ordinates other interdepartmental and regional initiatives. The Secretariat liaises with other Aboriginal ministries and assists in the management of intergovernmental relations on national Aboriginal issues.

VALUES

The Secretariat will focus on five core values while carrying out its activity plan over the next three years.

Each Employee...	
Professionalism	... uses their experience and expertise to provide the highest quality advice, analysis and service in a courteous and timely manner.
Diversity and Inclusiveness	... will treat people with respect, dignity and sensitivity, and will recognize the importance of diversity; encourage inclusiveness in the workplace; and respect the characteristics that make individuals unique.
Innovation and Initiative	... takes initiative and endeavours to be proactive in addressing issues and developing innovative solutions to address existing and future interests and concerns of those we serve.
Collaboration and Consultation	... will be supportive to those whom we serve and each other, and will seek knowledge and opinions of others, including Aboriginal governments and organizations, regional organizations, municipal governments, other interested organizations, stakeholders, experts and other relevant people, entities and sources when developing advice, policy and positions. Each person acknowledges the competencies and contributions of his or her colleagues.
Accountability	... accepts responsibility for his or her actions and is committed to reviewing their performance to improve quality of service, and understands that, as public servants, they are ultimately responsible to citizens.

PRIMARY CLIENTS

The clients of the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat include:

- The people of Newfoundland and Labrador, whose interests the Secretariat must represent in negotiating agreements that are fair and balanced, including Aboriginal land claims;
- The Premier, our minister, and cabinet ministers, to whom officials provide information, policy advice, and logistical support, including at major intergovernmental meetings such as the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, and the Council of the Federation;
- Labrador Inuit, Labrador Innu, Mi'kmaq, members of the NunatuKavut Community Council, and representative organizations in the province, who may need support to advocate to the Federal Government, an avenue to have input into provincial policies, to be consulted appropriately on resource management and development decisions, and co-operation to negotiate and implement agreements;
- Innu and Naskapi in Quebec and their representative organizations, who assert Aboriginal rights in Labrador and may need to be consulted appropriately on resource management and development decisions; and,
- All government entities that need policy advice on Aboriginal and intergovernmental issues.



Northern Development Ministers Development Forum – February 2012, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat's vision is of a strong, self-reliant, vibrant province, including Aboriginal communities, that is prosperous, inclusive, and respects diversity.

The mission statement identifies the priority focus area of the minister between 2011-2017. It represents the key longer-term, six-year result that the minister and the Secretariat will work towards to achieve the strategic directions of government. The statement also identifies the measures and indicators that will assist the Secretariat and the public in monitoring and evaluating our activities. To this end, our mission is founded upon the need to ensure that the province is positioned to articulate its views effectively in its relationships with other governments, including Aboriginal governments / organizations. This mission ensures the minister is able to promote Newfoundland and Labrador's interests in the areas of intergovernmental and Aboriginal relations.

Mission Statement

By March 31, 2017, the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat will have advanced Newfoundland and Labrador's best interests with sovereign governments in Canada and abroad as well as with Aboriginal governments / organizations, while advocating for the progression of the social and economic development of Aboriginal communities in the province.

SHARED COMMITMENTS

Shared commitments represent those goals and objectives that could not be met without the participation and actions of partners. In much of the Secretariat's work, collaboration is integral to achievement of the objectives identified in the Activity Plan. On a daily basis, the Secretariat plays a lead role in coordinating among provincial departments and agencies, the Federal Government and other associated groups on issues pertaining to Aboriginal people of the province.

On intergovernmental issues, the Secretariat's work in coordinating intergovernmental relations means it works with other departments in nearly all areas. For example, shared commitments are central to each of the Secretariat's three 2011-2014 strategic directions. The Secretariat's indicators likewise require shared commitments. For example, to promote 5 Wing Goose Bay, the Secretariat works with provincial entities and departments such as the Labrador Affairs Office, Environment and Conservation, and Innovation, Business and Rural Development. To assess developments in the Federal Government's presence in Newfoundland and Labrador, provincial departments provide the Secretariat with information about developments in federal staffing and the need for federal services. In preparations for intergovernmental meetings and in its relationships within the federation, the Secretariat works with all government departments to understand their issues and analyze, assist and develop policy positions.

On Aboriginal issues, the Federal Government has constitutional jurisdiction over and a fiduciary responsibility for Aboriginal people, and offers a variety of funding programs for people of Aboriginal descent. The programs and services provided by the Provincial Government to Aboriginal people are typically delivered by other departments or entities.

Virtually all the Secretariat's Aboriginal activities, including those for which it is the designated lead, such as land claims and intergovernmental agreement negotiations and implementation, involve collaboration with one or more public entities or Aboriginal groups/governments. These collaborative efforts support the Secretariat's strategic direction to advance the well-being of Aboriginal communities.

Also, by working closely with other provincial departments and agencies, the Secretariat contributed to fulfilling the strategic direction to ensure the perspective of Aboriginal people was reflected in provincial social policy and programming by participating in horizontal initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Violence Prevention Initiative. The Secretariat also worked with other departments that lead major economic developments to ensure that Aboriginal land claims and treaty rights were respected. This supported the Secretariat's strategic direction to ensure authorized developments in areas in which Aboriginal rights have been asserted or land claim treaty rights have been established to appropriately reflect Aboriginal interests.

In light of these realities, the Secretariat provided a coordinating and advisory role on many of our shared commitments. Some of these include the:

- Aboriginal Affairs Working Group,
- Air Access Committee,
- Business Continuity Planning,
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement Negotiations Committee,
- Committee on Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Emissions Trading,
- Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities,
- Department of Child, Youth and Family Services Transition Advisory Committee,
- Early Childhood Learning Strategy,
- Environmental Management and Planning Consultative Committee,
- Healthy Aging Strategy,
- Health Services Integration Fund,
- Hopedale Environmental Remediation Stakeholder Committee,
- Immigration and Multiculturalism Committee,
- Labour Market Development Agreement/Labour Market Agreement Deputy Ministers' Management Committee,
- Newfoundland and Labrador Administrative Data Identifier Standard,
- Northern Strategic Plan,
- Poverty Reduction Strategy,
- Skills Task Force,
- Social Housing Strategy,
- Steering Committee for Arctic Opportunities, and
- Violence Prevention Initiative.

While nearly all intergovernmental and Aboriginal commitments of the Secretariat are shared, particular examples of shared commitments are illustrated throughout the report where relevant.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2011-2012, the Secretariat undertook partnership and lead roles to advance the province's interests in a range of intergovernmental meetings, both multilaterally and bilaterally. Key accomplishments and priorities focused on support to the Premier, Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and other ministers in their meetings and exchanges with other sovereign governments and Aboriginal groups.

The Secretariat worked in collaboration with departments and agencies to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's priorities with the Federal Government, either directly with federal ministers, government departments and agencies or in multilateral meetings. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the Secretariat's activities on key priorities.

Intergovernmental Agreements

In 2011-2012, the province entered into 79 new or renewed agreements with governments to provide a range of funding, benefits and services to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, including 72 with the Federal Government. The *Intergovernmental Affairs Act* provides that the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs or his or her designate shall be a party to the negotiation of each intergovernmental agreement and that each shall, before executed, be submitted to the minister and shall be signed by the minister or his or her designate.

A key priority for the Secretariat is to ensure agreements between sovereign governments contain appropriate language, support the principles of partnership and respect the constitutional division of powers. The Secretariat may provide support and advice to departments at a number of stages, from the formulation through the negotiation to the finalization of these agreements. The depth of the Secretariat's involvement varies depending on factors such as the department's need for support and the priority of the agreement under intergovernmental policy, but in all cases the Secretariat works with the relevant department on the penultimate draft as authority is sought to enter into the agreement.

Canada – European Union Trade

Newfoundland and Labrador is participating in negotiations between Canada and the European Union towards a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The Secretariat, in collaboration with the lead entity, the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development, is working with federal and provincial-territorial negotiators to ensure the interests of the province are reflected in the final agreement.

International Fisheries Issues and Marine Safety

The Federal Government is pursuing a World Trade Organization (WTO) challenge against the European Union (EU) import ban on seal and seal products. Along with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, which is the lead entity, the Secretariat is working to support the Federal Government's WTO action on this clear violation of international trade agreements.

Fish stocks that straddle Canada's Exclusive Economic Zone should be managed by Canada through a system of custodial management and Newfoundland and Labrador encouraged the Federal Government to advance this principle in international organizations such as the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. The Secretariat actively monitors this issue and collaborates with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to protect and advance our interests in this area where appropriate while encouraging our federal counterparts to assert custodial management.

The New Energy 2011 platform contained a commitment to continue pressing the Government of Canada to commission a comprehensive review of marine safety in waters off Newfoundland and Labrador in order to encourage Canadian global leadership in marine safety.

Multilateral Meetings

The Council of Atlantic Premiers

Premiers established the Council of Atlantic Premiers in 2000 to strengthen the economic competitiveness of the Atlantic provinces, improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of public services and promote the interests of the Atlantic provinces on national issues.

On December 5, 2011 Newfoundland and Labrador hosted the 20th session of the Council in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The discussions at this meeting focused on federal transfer renewal (health care sustainability, fiscal arrangements and social housing), employment insurance, federal presence in Atlantic Canada, federal crime legislation, immigration levels, and the Atlanta Trade Mission planned for February 2012. The Secretariat provided leadership among Atlantic officials as Chair in preparation for the event, and Newfoundland and Labrador officials contributed to the successful coordination and execution of the meeting.

From February 6-8, 2012, the Secretariat worked with the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development in preparations and on-site support for a Council of Atlantic Premiers Trade Mission to Atlanta, Georgia.

For more information about the Council of Atlantic Premiers, including communiqus issued following the meetings, visit the website at: www.cap-cpma.ca.

The Council of the Federation

Founded in 2003, the Council of the Federation is the council of all the Premiers of the Canadian provinces and territories. It held its annual summer meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia from July 20-22, 2011, as well as a winter meeting from January 16-17, 2012. The Secretariat, in consultation and collaboration with many departments across government, provided strategic advice and support to the Premier during the meetings.

For more information about the Council of the Federation, including the communiqués issued by the Council following these meetings, visit the website at www.councilofthefederation.ca.

Premiers' Meeting with Leaders of the National Aboriginal Organizations

Premiers met with National Aboriginal Organization leaders in Vancouver, British Columbia on July 20, 2011. Issues discussed included education and skills training, economic development, violence against Aboriginal women, and crisis and emergency management. Both branches of the Secretariat worked in close coordination to provide strategic advice, relevant materials and on-site support to the Premier.

Federal/Provincial/Territorial and Provincial/Territorial Meetings

In 2011-2012, the Secretariat contributed to numerous intergovernmental meetings. The Premier, ministers and department officials received timely analysis and information about the political, administrative, fiscal and economic status as well as policy developments and positions of the federal, provincial and territorial governments. The Secretariat provided advice to ensure consistency in the province's positions and assistance to departments to negotiate and conclude intergovernmental agreements and to prepare appropriate submissions to inform the Cabinet decision-making process.

The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

The Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers was established in 1973 to expand economic ties among the states and provinces; foster exchanges on energy matters; advocate for environmental issues and sustainable development; and coordinate numerous policies and programs in such areas as transportation, forest management, tourism, small-scale agriculture, and fisheries.

The 35th Annual Conference was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 10-12, 2011. The theme of the conference was "Promoting Economic Growth through Clean Energy in New England and Eastern Canada." The discussion largely focused on energy, trade, the environment, and fiscal pressures facing the region. A total of six resolutions were agreed upon at this meeting, dealing with: management of border crossings and ports of entry; enhanced procurement commitments between the US and Canada; energy; transportation; climate change; and mercury pollution.

The Secretariat participated in the development of the meeting agenda in collaboration with Eastern Canadian and New England counterparts, and coordinated the preparation of policy advice to the Premier. The Secretariat also provided logistical support and strategic advice to the Premier during the meeting.

For more information about the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, and to review the individual resolutions, visit the following websites: www.negc.org/premiers.html or www.cap-cpma.ca/.

Visiting International Dignitaries

Every year, many international dignitaries visit the province and meet with the Premier, the Minister for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, other cabinet ministers, and various government officials. While the Office of Protocol (Executive Council) advises on matters of protocol and organizes state and ceremonial events, the Secretariat supports the Premier and the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs by undertaking research and providing strategic advice for such meetings. In 2011-12 the Secretariat was involved in hosting 12 visiting dignitaries.

Tshash Petapen (New Dawn) Agreements

On November 18, 2011, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Federal Government and the Innu of Labrador signed three agreements which culminate the work leading to this important milestone. The three documents signed during the ceremony included the Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle, the Upper Churchill Redress Agreement and the Lower Churchill Innu Impact and Benefits Agreement which, collectively, have become known as Tshash Petapen or the New Dawn Agreements.

The Agreement-in-Principle provides the basis to pursue negotiations towards a Final Agreement and helps build a foundation for economic growth and brings clarity to ownership of land and management of resources, creating a more stable environment for the economic, social and cultural development of Labrador.



Holding signed documents of the New Dawn Agreements are left to right: Gilbert Bennett, Nalcor; Premier Kathy Dunderdale; Peter Penashue, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada; and Joseph Riche, Innu Nation Grand Chief – November 18, 2011

Inuit Remains Returned to Rose Island

Rose Island is located in Saglek Bay within the Torngat Mountains National Park. In the early 1970s, the remains of 113 Inuit – 100 from Rose Island and 13 from Upernivik Island – and associated artifacts were excavated from stone burials as part of a research project conducted by Memorial University of Newfoundland. Special “homecoming” ceremonies were held in 1995 and in 2011 upon the return of the Inuit remains to their rightful burial grounds in northern Labrador. The 2011 ceremony was accomplished through the efforts of the Secretariat, the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, the Rooms Corporation and the Nunatsiavut Government.

Innu Healing Initiatives

During 2011-12, the Innu Nation, the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation (SIFN) and the Mushuau Innu First Nation (MIFN) withdrew from the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy. The Chiefs of the SIFN and MIFN submitted a proposal to the Federal Ministers of Health and of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada regarding a successor to the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy, to be Innu-led and called the “Innu Round Table”. The Federal Government was expected to respond in 2012-13. Like the strategy, the round table would provide a

forum to discuss community challenges and act as a mechanism for the devolution of programs and services. Devolution of K-12 education to the Innu was achieved through the strategy in 2009; it is hoped that similar successes can be achieved for income support and child, youth and family services, which are now delivered by the province on behalf of the Federal Government.

In 2011-12, the province wrote the Federal Government to discuss a variety of issues of mutual interest, including the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy and the Innu Round Table, and expressed hope that the Federal Government would provide equal or enhanced funding in support of the round table as it had done for the strategy.

The Secretariat, in consultation with responsible departments, continued to work with the Federal Government and the Innu to develop Innu capacity and plan for income support and child, youth and family services devolution.



Rose Island, Saglek Bay, Torngat Mountains National Park, Labrador

Heating Oil Storage Tank System (HOST) Regulations

Budget 2011 included \$1.5 million for an assistance plan for Inuit community homeowners who face unique and difficult challenges associated with the registration of home heating oil tanks to meet compliance with provincial HOST Regulations. The Government Assistance Plan provided a substantial reduction in the costs required to meet environmental standards and make their oil tanks safer and more secure.

The program has been completed, well under budget with all repairs, installations and certifications completed for all participants in the program. A total of 191 tanks were registered during the course of the Government Assistance Plan.

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

Issue 1: Equity in the Federation

A strong federation has strong provinces and territories, working together, in the interests of their citizens. The Secretariat works to advance Newfoundland and Labrador as a full partner with other provinces and territories and the Federal Government. In order to do this, Newfoundland and Labrador has to build and maintain productive relationships. This includes supporting the Premier's and minister's attendance at intergovernmental meetings, such as the Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, First Ministers' Meetings and ministerial meetings. It also requires the Secretariat to develop analysis of federal-provincial-territorial issues for its clients and to help coordinate intergovernmental activities across the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Secretariat works with the Department of Finance and other government entities in advocating for an equitable share of major federal transfers and funding delivered through intergovernmental agreements. It works to ensure that such funding aligns with the Province's specific needs and unique characteristics. The Secretariat also works with other government entities in advocating for an equitable share of federal program spending that is responsive to the needs in Newfoundland and Labrador, including transfers to individuals.

Of particular importance is the Secretariat's role in advocating for enhanced federal employment and programming in the province, commonly referred to as federal presence.

The Federal Government has sole responsibility for national defence as there is no provincial department or agency that has national defence as its primary mandate. The Secretariat acts as the lead provincial entity for these matters.

This includes advocating for issues of importance related to the province's three military installations at 5 Wing Goose Bay, 9 Wing Gander and CFS St. John's. The Secretariat further provides analysis and support on any other matters related to national defence. This role has involved promoting actions such as the military diversification and long-term operation of 5 Wing Goose Bay, by advocating for the base as an ideal site for foreign military training, and advocating for improved search and rescue services in Newfoundland and Labrador by increasing resources. By responding to these issues, the Secretariat assists in fulfilling government's long-standing strategic direction to promote military diversification and long-term operation of 5 Wing Goose Bay, and the need to have the Federal Government improve search and rescue response times in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Objective: Each year the Secretariat will have promoted Newfoundland and Labrador's right to equitable treatment in the federation.

Measure: Promoted Newfoundland and Labrador's right to equitable treatment

Indicators / Performance:

Indicator	<p>Strategic approaches undertaken to promote increased federal presence in Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <p>The Secretariat uses several approaches to encourage increased federal presence in the province including: the development of research and analysis to support the Premier and minister; communicating general concerns about federal presence through meetings and correspondence; and preparing specific proposals for enhanced federal presence or addressing specific instances of federal job losses and service cuts.</p> <p>The Secretariat regularly meets and consults with federal officials and assesses federal activities to determine if there are opportunities for increased federal presence or risks to existing federal programming and funding in the province. Consultation continues at all levels of the Secretariat and is part of its regular business. The Secretariat participates in meetings and consultations with federal officials regarding issues of federal presence related to federal commitments.</p>
Performance	<p>The Secretariat continues to direct efforts to ensure the province is not disproportionately affected by reductions in federal programming as occurred in the past. The Secretariat also provides support to the Premier concerning federal presence issues.</p> <p>The federal budget delivered on March 29, 2012 signalled a period of federal austerity and reductions which requires regular consultation with provincial departments regarding federal presence challenges and opportunities. By serving as a liaison between departments, the Secretariat has helped consolidate information and address any information gaps.</p> <p>Through 2011-12 the Secretariat provided advice related to an effective federal presence in Newfoundland and Labrador, including an overview of the Secretariat's approach to federal presence.</p> <p>The Secretariat prepared materials for the Premier and minister regarding the disproportionate past effects of federal austerity to</p>

aid them in their efforts to lobby the Federal Government in order to ensure that they have appropriate capacity in the province.

The Secretariat works to gather information through analysis of sources including the federal budget, federal announcements and other departmental information. The Secretariat also monitors and analyzes reports and conducts research on the federal public service in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Minister for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs uses this work in communications to the Federal Government.

The Secretariat worked closely with provincial departments to identify strategic opportunities and develop advocacy approaches regarding specific cuts that affect federal presence. The Secretariat has also worked with other provinces and territories through forums such as Council of Atlantic Premiers to advance common concerns.

Indicator	<p>Strategic approaches undertaken to promote military diversification and long-term opportunities for 5 Wing Goose Bay and other military matters where appropriate</p>
	<p>On defence matters, the Premier and ministers have written the Federal Government on numerous occasions and met with federal officials throughout this year. Our government takes every opportunity to inform the Federal Government of the importance of military installations in this province and to advocate for past commitments. Plans to establish a Rapid Reaction Battalion at 5 Wing, an Unstaffed Aerial Vehicles squadron at 5 Wing, and a Territorial Defence Battalion at CFS St. John's have gone unfulfilled despite consistent lobbying.</p>
Performance	<p>The Secretariat actively assists in marketing efforts by promoting the base to diplomats from Allied countries when they visit Newfoundland and Labrador. During 2011-12, ministers met with officials from South Korea, Austria, Belgium, and the United States and promoted foreign military training opportunities in the province. In addition, the Secretariat worked with our federal counterparts in the Department of National Defence and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to assist in marketing the capabilities of 5 Wing. The Secretariat will continue to work towards attracting training exercises such as the NATO close-air support/forward air control training exercise.</p> <p>As there is no provincial department or agency that has national defence as its primary mandate, the Secretariat acts as the lead provincial entity for these matters. The Secretariat assists the</p>

	<p>Department of National Defence in navigating the provincial system to seek regulatory approvals for its activities and to facilitate interactions with departments. Issues ranged from approval of the use of illumination flares for training exercises to addressing concerns arising from potential encroachment. This one-window approach ensures the often multi-faceted issues are strategically resolved.</p>
Indicator	<p>Advocated and made representations to the Federal Government, provinces and territories on issues of importance to the province as they arise</p>
Performance	<p>The Secretariat prepared information for the Premier, minister and deputy minister and met extensively with federal officials as necessary.</p>
Indicator	<p>The Minister wrote nine letters to provincial and federal counterparts and the Secretariat worked with other departments to coordinate other intergovernmental correspondence.</p>
Performance	<p>Coordinated interdepartmental intergovernmental activities</p> <p>The Secretariat staff took a prominent role in interdepartmental activities relevant to Newfoundland and Labrador's intergovernmental relations, including involvement in committees of interest to the province's intergovernmental relations.</p> <p>The Secretariat consistently facilitates a coordinated approach to intergovernmental policies and strategies throughout government. For example, the Secretariat has provided advice and guidance on intergovernmental agreements that have strengthened the province's ability to consistently enter into agreements that respect the nature of Newfoundland and Labrador's place in the federation.</p> <p>Secretariat officials participated in a number of interdepartmental committees and monitored intergovernmental ministers' meetings to ensure the province's interests are promoted. They coordinated with departments to ensure timely and accurate information is available to the Premier, cabinet and ministers. The Secretariat was active in communicating to relevant departments statements issued by Premiers and monitoring their implementation.</p>

Issue 2: Self-Reliance

Newfoundland and Labrador is secure, confident and can engage governments, including the Federal Government, on our own terms. Newfoundland and Labrador has demonstrated its self-reliance both at home and on the world stage. Strong relationships with other governments can best be pursued from a position of self-reliance. Being self-reliant means not being dependent on the Federal Government to protect the province's interests internationally, but instead taking an active role in promoting our priorities.

The Secretariat works to formulate intergovernmental policy that represents the province's best interests; works to ensure intergovernmental agreements signed by the province are in its best interests; and, builds relationships with national, sub-national and international governments and international entities, including through the Premier's and ministers' participation in such intergovernmental fora as the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

Objective: Each year the Secretariat will have worked to initiate, maintain and advance Newfoundland and Labrador's best interests with governments in Canada and abroad.

Measure: Worked to advance Newfoundland and Labrador's best interests with governments in Canada and abroad.

Indicators / Performance:

Indicator	Supported the advancement of the province's jurisdictional ownership and effective control of petroleum and other resources in the waters adjacent to Newfoundland and Labrador
	The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat continues to work in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Department of Justice, to provide comprehensive analysis of issues related to the effective control the province has over resources in the offshore.
Performance	<p>The New Energy platform included a commitment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the province's current offshore regulatory structure, in a manner that is consistent with the principles of the Atlantic Accord.</p> <p>The Secretariat also continues to monitor potential boundary issues and possible threats to the province's effective control over offshore resources.</p>

	<p>The Secretariat was actively involved with the Departments of Natural Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Justice, Environment and Conservation and Tourism, Culture and Recreation to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach was taken. These activities included: participation in the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements; the provision of policy advice; and involvement with committees dealing with intergovernmental issues.</p> <p>The Secretariat is also following the ongoing effort by the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Canada to amend the Atlantic Accord Implementation Acts to improve the Occupational Health and Safety regime in the Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia offshore areas. The Secretariat works with the lead provincial department, Natural Resources, regarding regulatory issues and Service Newfoundland and Labrador regarding safety on this issue.</p> <p>The Secretariat continues to monitor the Federal Government's ongoing scientific research to support Canada's claim to the continental shelf under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Secretariat is engaged in various issues related to the boundaries of Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore area and has engaged the Department of Natural Resources on the analysis of this material.</p>
Indicator	Formulated intergovernmental policy to promote self-reliance
Performance	<p>The Secretariat continually develops approaches to meet government's strategic directions and intergovernmental priorities. The Secretariat has offered advice and guidance on appropriate terms and conditions in intergovernmental agreements. Throughout the negotiation of intergovernmental agreements, the Secretariat worked to reach the most optimal terms and conditions for Newfoundland and Labrador.</p>
Indicator	Conducted analysis and provided input to ensure intergovernmental agreements are in the province's best interests
Performance	In 2011-12, the Secretariat signed 79 intergovernmental agreements, including 72 with the Federal Government. All

	<p>agreements are negotiated in a consistent manner to ensure the province's best interests are supported.</p>
Indicator	<p>Contributed to building our own relationships with national and sub-national governments, within Canada and abroad, and international entities</p> <p>The Council of the Federation held meetings on July 20-22, 2011, and on January 16-17, 2012. The Council of the Federation held working meetings and conference calls as necessary.</p> <p>The Council of Atlantic Premiers met on May 15-16, 2011 and Newfoundland and Labrador hosted the December 5, 2011 meeting. In addition, the Secretariat was involved in preparations and on-site support for the Atlanta Trade Mission held on February 6-8, 2012.</p> <p>The Conference of New England Premiers and Eastern Canadian Premiers met on July 10-12, 2011 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated in organizing meetings of federal, provincial and territorial intergovernmental affairs officials in advance of First Ministers Meetings.</p>
Performance	<p>The Secretariat assisted in preparations for the Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance's meeting from June 12-14, 2011 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.</p> <p>For each of the Council of the Federation, Council of Atlantic Premiers and the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, the Secretariat participated in the development of meeting agendas, the preparation of common positions, and the preparation of conference logistics in collaboration with provincial, territorial and state colleagues.</p> <p>Throughout 2011-2012, the Secretariat also represented the province on the Council of the Federation's Steering Committee and Senior Officials' Committee. The Secretariat also represented the province on the Council of the Atlantic Premiers Management Committee and Management Committee Officials' Committee as well as on the Coordinating Committee of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador supports working with our Atlantic partners on joint initiatives when such collaboration is in the best interest of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Priorities for</p>

regional cooperation include matters pertaining to energy and the environment, Canada Health Transfer, Canada Social Transfer, joint procurement and any other issues which would benefit from collective action and which would enable Atlantic interests to be placed on the national agenda.

The Secretariat also supports the Minister responsible for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs and the Premier in meetings with international dignitaries such as Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consul Generals. In the 2011-12 fiscal year, the Intergovernmental Affairs Branch of the Secretariat supported meetings with 12 visiting international dignitaries.

Issue 3: Aboriginal Interests

People of Aboriginal descent have unique social and economic needs, resulting from historic, social, cultural, and geographic factors. Government policy and programs that do not reflect these unique needs that arise from the noted factors are less likely to advance the social and economic development of Aboriginal people in the province. The vision and mission of the Secretariat is to ensure that provincial government policies and programs are appropriately adapted or modified to account for these unique needs in order to promote the effective social and economic development of Aboriginal communities of the province. The Secretariat continues to advocate for the appropriate consideration and integration of these unique needs into provincial programs and services.

The Secretariat plays a key role in ensuring that information and advice regarding Aboriginal interests informs Provincial Government policy and programs. This can be achieved by encouraging communications and partnerships with governments, Aboriginal people, communities, organizations and other stakeholders.

Objective: Each year the Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat will have provided input to support Aboriginal interests in government policy and programs.

Measure: Provided input

Indicators / Performance:

Indicator	Provided input on Aboriginal perspectives in the development of government policy and programs
Performance	<p>The Secretariat advocated the perspectives of Aboriginal people through the development and sharing of papers, attending committee meetings and providing input into interdepartmental working groups.</p> <p>The Secretariat continues to work with other Provincial Government departments to ensure Aboriginal perspectives are considered when developing policy, programs and initiatives. To do this the Secretariat actively participates in a number of horizontal initiatives / interdepartmental working groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aboriginal Affairs Working Group,• Business Continuity Planning,• Committee on Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Emissions Trading,• Committee on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Child, Youth and Family Services Transition Advisory Committee,• Early Childhood Learning Strategy,• Environmental Management and Planning Consultative Committee,• Healthy Aging Strategy,• Health Services Integration Fund,• Hopedale Environmental Remediation Stakeholder Committee,• Housing for Hopedale,• Newfoundland and Labrador Administrative Data Identifier Standard,• Northern Strategic Plan,• Poverty Reduction Strategy,• Skills Task Force,• Social Housing Strategy,• Steering Committee for Arctic Opportunities, and• Violence Prevention Initiative.
Indicator	Government consultations are supported to enable Aboriginal perspectives to be considered
Performance	<p>Budget 2011 announced \$100,000 to assist in the updating of an Aboriginal Consultation Policy and other Aboriginal consultation activities. An updated policy will guide consultation with Aboriginal organizations whose asserted Aboriginal rights have the potential to be affected by development in Newfoundland and Labrador.</p> <p>The Secretariat worked actively on the Consultation Policy throughout the year, concurrent with continued work with other government entities in Aboriginal consultation activities including with respect to the George River Caribou Herd, the Lower Churchill Generation Project, the Labrador-Island Transmission Link Project, numerous mineral exploration and mining development initiatives, and other developments in Labrador.</p> <p>The Secretariat participated in an Atlantic community of practice and federal-provincial-territorial working group on Aboriginal consultation, to learn from and share best practices with other jurisdictions.</p> <p>Throughout the reporting period the Secretariat met with project proponents on Aboriginal consultation activities for resource development in Labrador. The Secretariat also met with Aboriginal organizations in both Labrador and Quebec on consultation activities, on resource development as well as wildlife management.</p>

	<p>The Secretariat also coordinated the Provincial Government's relationship with Aboriginal organizations in the province through a variety of committees, meetings, teleconferences and negotiation tables, including the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy, the Innu land claims and self-government negotiations and the Miawpukek First Nation self-government negotiations.</p> <p>The Secretariat managed the government-to-government relationship with the Nunatsiavut Government including participating in the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Implementation Committee, Fiscal Financing Agreement negotiations, and other forums and negotiations.</p> <p>The Secretariat also interacted with the Nunatsiavut Government on a variety of issues, including the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area Land Use Plan, Hopedale remediation project, Inuit Housing Needs Assessment, and repatriation of human remains to Rose Island, as well as discussions regarding a ceremony in 2012-13 at Nutak to commemorate relocatees.</p> <p>In fiscal year 2011-12, the Secretariat ensured Aboriginal perspectives were considered in government consultations on Forest Management District 19 and 22 plans, a new Forest Management Strategy, pre-budget consultations and the Child Care Strategy.</p>
Indicator	Facilitated Aboriginal women's input on public policy, programs and legislation
Performance	<p>The Secretariat has continued to provide input into Aboriginal women's issues by working with the Women's Policy Office, providing advice using an Aboriginal women's lens. The Secretariat regularly uses an Aboriginal women's lens when analyzing policy documents.</p> <p>The Secretariat regularly connects various departments with various Aboriginal women's groups and organizations, such as the Department of Education, Health and Community Services and the Women's Policy Office.</p> <p>The Secretariat has collaborated with Aboriginal women through its representation on the pan-Canadian <i>Violence Against Aboriginal Women Working Group</i>, which is a sub-working group of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group.</p>

Indicator	Advised departments on consultation obligations with respect to Aboriginal governments / organizations on resource management and development in the province
Performance	The Secretariat reviews all resource development applications and environmental assessment processes in Labrador to ensure Aboriginal perspectives are considered and that Aboriginal organizations / governments are consulted appropriately. The Secretariat provides advice on mineral exploration referrals and applications and Crown Land applications in Labrador.
Indicator	Worked with the Federal Government regarding federal investment and policies that are reflective of the needs and opportunities in Aboriginal communities
Performance	Advocated for federal investment and policies that are reflective of the needs and opportunities in Aboriginal communities by working with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, which continues to call for a First Ministers Meeting and seeks federal participation in the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group process (whose current focus is on education, economic development and violence against Aboriginal women and girls), given the Federal Government's primacy of responsibility for Aboriginal people in Canada.

Issue 4: Effective Relationships

People of Aboriginal descent in the province have aspirations influenced by their history, culture, and social and economic circumstances. The Secretariat plays a lead role in negotiating land claims and self-government agreements as well as building and maintaining cooperative relationships with Aboriginal governments / organizations. The Secretariat works with the Federal Government and Aboriginal governments / organizations to ensure they benefit from federal programs and services available to people of Aboriginal descent.

The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat promotes sustainable social and economic development that strengthens Aboriginal communities by addressing, among other things, asserted Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal governance and effective intergovernmental relationships. The Provincial Government strives to further

improve the government-to-government relationship between the Provincial Government and the Nunatsiavut Government.

Objective: The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat will have promoted sustainable social and economic development that strengthens Aboriginal communities.

Measure: Promoted sustainable social and economic development.

Indicators / Performance:

Indicator	Worked with Innu Nation and Canada towards a final land claims agreement and implementation plan
Performance	A tripartite Innu Land Rights Agreement-in-Principle between Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador and Innu Nation (AIP), the Lower Churchill Project Innu Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IBA), and the Upper Churchill Redress Agreement (UCRA) were ratified by the Innu on June 30, 2011, with overwhelming support from both Innu communities of Natuashish and Sheshatshiu. The AIP was ratified by Canada and the province and signed by the parties on November 18, 2011. The IBA and the UCRA came into effect immediately upon signing. The AIP forms the basis for ongoing treaty negotiations between the Innu, Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador. Negotiations towards a Final Agreement are ongoing and the development of a tripartite Implementation Plan for the Final Agreement has commenced in parallel.
Indicator	The signing of these agreements marked an historic event for the Innu of Labrador, who with these agreements has enhanced their ability to pursue sustainable social and economic development.
Performance	Strived to achieve devolution agreements with the Innu Nation and the Federal Government on appropriate provincial programs and services
Indicator	The province wrote the Federal Government to discuss a variety of issues of mutual interest, including the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Healing Strategy and Innu Round Table, and expressed hope that the Federal Government would provide equal or enhanced funding in support of the round table as it had done for the earlier strategy.

	The Secretariat, in consultation with responsible departments, continued to work with the Federal Government and the Innu to develop Innu capacity and plan for income support and child, youth and family services devolution, and will consider the Federal Government's response to the Innu Round Table proposal when it becomes available.
Indicator	Negotiated with the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government devolution agreements in areas of provincial jurisdiction pursuant to the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) and its associated Fiscal Financing Agreement, upon the request of the Nunatsiavut Government
Performance	No work was done on this indicator as the Nunatsiavut Government has not yet engaged the province to negotiate a devolution agreement. When it is prepared to begin negotiations the province will deliver on this indicator.
Indicator	Strived to achieve a final self-government agreement with the Miawpukek First Nation and the Federal Government
Performance	The Miawpukek First Nation (MFN), the Government of Canada and the Provincial Government continued to negotiate an Agreement-in-Principle including chapters on child and family services and justice. Negotiations have taken place regularly, and the parties anticipate concluding the Agreement-in-Principle in 2012-13.
Indicator	Continued progress in the implementation of the LILCA
Performance	The Secretariat is a member of the tripartite Implementation Committee with the Federal Government and the Nunatsiavut Government. Considerable work was undertaken in 2011-12 including holding an orientation session for the newly established Dispute Resolution Board in June 2011.
Performance	The province and the Nunatsiavut Government negotiated and signed a funding agreement for 2011-12 respecting the province's one third share of the funding for the Dispute Resolution Board. In April 2011 the Provincial Government, the Nunatsiavut Government, the Federal Government and the respective chairs of the boards signed a funding agreement for 2011-12 to provide funding to each of the Torngat Joint Fisheries Board and the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board.
	The province participated in negotiations with the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government on a new five-year Fiscal

	<p>Financing Agreement, a subsidiary agreement to the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.</p> <p>The province concluded negotiations with the Nunatsiavut Government and the Federal Government on a Memorandum of Agreement on technical amendments to the LILCA, to be signed in 2012-13.</p> <p>In July 2011 the province adopted in principle a draft Land Use Plan for the Land Inuit Settlement Area. Adoption in principle would allow the draft Land Use Plan to proceed to the public hearings stage. It did not signify the province's agreement with the draft plan.</p> <p>A Commissioner appointed by the Regional Planning Authority conducted public hearings on the draft Land Use Plan for the Land Inuit Settlement Area in the fall of 2011. The Commissioner submitted a report to the province and the Nunatsiavut Government in December 2011. The Regional Planning Authority submitted its final draft Land Use Plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area to the province and the Nunatsiavut Government in March 2012.</p> <p>The province contributed to the LILCA 2010-11 Annual Report.</p>
Indicator	<p>Continued to work with the Federal Government regarding its constitutional responsibility towards the Aboriginal people of the province, in particular by providing Aboriginal programs and services to all eligible people of Aboriginal descent in the province</p>
Performance	<p>The province continues to urge the Federal Government to take further responsibility for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>One example of this is that the province has conveyed to the Federal Government that it feels the Inuit of Labrador are not receiving equitable federal housing funding when compared to the federal housing funding provided to other Inuit.</p> <p>In September 2011, the Qalipu Mi'Kmaq First Nation (QMFN) Band was created. A first in Canada, QMFN is a "landless band" which does not have an associated Reserve and is the successor of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI). In November 2003, negotiations commenced between the FNI and the Federal Government towards an Agreement in Principle (AIP) for the recognition of the Qalipu Mi'Kmaq Band. The creation of the QMFN is the culmination of efforts since 2003. The Province supported the creation of the landless band to allow members of that band to access federal programs and services for First Nations members</p>

	<p>such as Non-Insured Health Benefits and the Post-Secondary Student Support Program. As a result of its creation, the QMFN Band and its members will receive federal funding that would not otherwise have been available.</p>
Indicator	Continued to work with the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group
Performance	<p>The Secretariat continued to work with national Aboriginal organizations and provincial and territorial departments responsible for Aboriginal affairs to develop tangible, concrete and results-oriented action in the priority areas of education, economic development, and addressing violence against Aboriginal women and girls. The aim is to improve the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal people in Canada. The Provincial Government attended the April 19, 2011 meeting in Ottawa, which focused on the AAWG's "Progress Report to Provincial and Territorial Ministers and National Aboriginal Organization (NAO) Leaders: A Framework to Action in Education, Economic Development and Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls" which was prepared by AAWG officials for Ministers' and Leaders' consideration, and became a report to Premiers and NAO Leaders at the July 2011 meeting in British Columbia.</p>
Indicator	Advocated for the Federal Government to make a decision regarding the land claim of the NunatuKavut Community Council and continued to encourage the Federal Government to provide access to federal programs and services to members of NunatuKavut Community Council
Performance	<p>In 2011-12, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs wrote to the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development urging the Government of Canada to make a decision on the NunatuKavut Community Council's land claim. The Minister encouraged the Federal Government to provide the same wide-ranging programming and services to Aboriginal people living off-reserve as it does to those who live on-reserve. Further, the Minister suggested the Federal Government adopt a more inclusive eligibility criteria for Aboriginal student assistance to ensure all Aboriginal students in Newfoundland and Labrador can access the full range of federal programs, services and funding.</p>
Indicator	Considered the view of Aboriginal women respecting legislation, policy, programs and services
	<p>The Secretariat liaises with the Women's Policy Office, other departments, and various Aboriginal women's organizations to bring</p>

the views of Aboriginal women into consideration with respect to policies and programs.

The Secretariat will be reporting on the same objectives and indicators for 2012-13 as 2011-12.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat is aware that there may be potential challenges and opportunities that will require further consideration as the Secretariat proceeds with implementing its mandate. These opportunities will require negotiation, collaboration, coordination, facilitation and analytical expertise to ensure the mandate of the Secretariat is met.

The Canadian intergovernmental environment is continually transforming as leadership and priorities change. In response to such changes, the Secretariat facilitates the province's positioning on issues of specific and common concern to achieve the vision of a province which is recognized as making an important contribution to a strong and united Canada which is treated equitably within the federation.

Relations with the Federal Government

In 2012-2013 the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to encourage fair and equitable treatment within the Canadian federation with respect to national programs. Federal programming supports many important activities in our provinces, and as federal reductions are implemented, there are fiscal implications for funding and employment in the province. For example, the proposed changes to Employment Insurance and Old Age Security could mean that provinces will have to provide greater social assistance payments to offset the loss of this income for vulnerable citizens. Bill C-10, which will lead to longer sentences for federal crimes, could also lead to greater expenses for the provinces due to the cost of increasing incarceration. It is important that the Federal Government continue to appreciate the needs of people across all of Canada and work to ensure that federal responsibilities are maintained and not transferred to provinces. The Federal Government must not lose sight of its responsibilities, and must ensure our citizens continue to receive the services that they expect from their Federal Government. The Secretariat will therefore continue to have a coordinated approach to working with, and encouraging the Federal Government to protect our regional and provincial interests. The Secretariat will also continue to press the Federal Government to engage in open dialogue with the Provincial Government to ensure our perspectives are understood, and our provincial needs are addressed and met. The Secretariat will also work with departments and agencies to ensure that ongoing collaborative federal-provincial efforts continue to be productive.

On December 19, 2011, without consulting provinces or territories, Federal Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, announced the Federal Government's plans for the renewal of Canada Health Transfer and Canada Social Transfer arrangements. Specifically, that the current 6% escalator for total Canada Health Transfer funding would continue

until 2016-17; starting in 2017-18, the Canada Health Transfer will grow based on a 3-year moving average of nominal gross domestic product, with funding guaranteed to increase by at least 3% per year; the Canada Social Transfer will continue to grow at 3%, and; that both arrangements will be reviewed in 2024. Minister Flaherty also noted that Equalization will be renewed, as it currently operates, in 2014 for a 5 year period until 2018-19. Newfoundland and Labrador is currently not an Equalization recipient.

At the January 17, 2012 meeting of the Council of the Federation, Premiers noted that they are all committed to the basic principle that no jurisdiction should be made worse off by any changes to fiscal transfer arrangements, and that any changes to those arrangements constitute a win-win for all Canadians regardless of where they live. Premiers also agreed to three major initiatives: The formation of a Fiscal Arrangements Working Group; the formation of a Health Care Innovation Working Group; and, the development of a communications strategy on fiscal transfer renewal.

The Secretariat will continue to urge the Federal Government to more fully discharge its Constitutional responsibilities to Aboriginal peoples by both expanding and intensifying its commitments to Aboriginal persons in this province.

Obligations to Intergovernmental Meetings

Intergovernmental meetings provide opportunities to advance the province's key priorities on regional, national and international stages. In 2012-2013, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to work through organizations such as the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, the Council of the Federation, Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers and the Council of Atlantic Premiers. The Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat will support the Premier and the Minister for Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs as they participate in these organizations. The Secretariat will develop, with other jurisdictions, the agenda and common positions; develop and implement logistical arrangements related to the province's participation; give strategic advice in consultation with other provincial departments; and provide strategic advice and on-site support during meetings. Following such meetings, the Secretariat will collaborate with provincial departments and agencies and other jurisdictions to implement Premiers' directions and report on their progress.

National Defence

Recent tragedies highlighted the inadequacies in federal protocol and the need for greater search and rescue (SAR) resources. In light of this tragedy, the federal government changed some protocols. Public discussion of SAR related issues continued into the 2012-13 reporting year.

As the Federal Government finalizes its procurement plans for new fixed-wing SAR aircraft, opportunities may arise to establish adequate support for the existing Cormorant helicopters at 9 Wing Gander or at 5 Wing Goose Bay. Canada is also a signatory to the international Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue with seven other arctic states, which divides the arctic into zones and creates an onus to provide SAR coverage. This positions the province, particularly 5 Wing Goose Bay, as an ideal base for northern search and rescue.

The Federal Government committed to station an Unstaffed Aerial Vehicle Squadron at 5 Wing in 2006 and reiterated same in correspondence several times since. On February 20, 2012, Minister McGrath wrote to the Minister MacKay to enquire as to the status of the commitment by the Federal Government to station the squadron. The Secretariat will continue to press the Federal Government on establishing an operational mandate for 5 Wing and to honour its commitments to the province.

The Department of National Defence continues to market 5 Wing Goose Bay to NATO countries as a training destination and marketing efforts are driven by an office in Ottawa. Summer 2012 will see some activity as the German military will be conducting standard flight training exercises in May and June, with additional activity possible, and plans are in place for UAV testing in June/July. This will be the third time the German military, in partnership with Cassidian, formerly European Aerospace and Defence, will use 5 Wing for UAV testing. 5 Wing is being considered for additional foreign military training, however, these considerations are hampered by the high cost of travel for NATO countries seeking an economical solution. The Secretariat will work with the Department of National Defence and local stakeholders to promote related diversification opportunities at the base.

Intergovernmental Agreements

The Secretariat will continue to carry out its legislated responsibilities pertaining to the negotiation and signing of intergovernmental agreements. It will continue to seek opportunities for improving agreements, especially in light of the federal policy and directive on transfer payments.

The Secretariat will work with its federal counterpart (the Privy Council Office), as well as provincial and federal departments to ensure that agreements with the other governments, particularly the Federal Government, are respectful of Newfoundland and Labrador as a member of the Canadian Federation.

Aboriginal Policy

The province will finalize an updated Aboriginal Consultation Policy to guide and facilitate the efficient consultation with Aboriginal organizations. As part of this process, the Secretariat will be contacting appropriate Aboriginal organizations to request feedback on the draft policy. The overall objective of the policy is to improve efficiencies, facilitate addressing potential impacts on asserted Aboriginal rights and produce a more effective approval of permits and authorizations. This will support and encourage sustainable economic development in areas of Labrador where Aboriginal organizations have asserted rights.

The Secretariat will continue to ensure all Aboriginal issues are considered during the development of provincial policy, programs and services by continuing to provide an Aboriginal perspective on issues, striving to progress the economic and social well-being of all Aboriginal people and their communities, and remaining optimistic about the opportunities that lay ahead.

Financial Statements

	Actual \$	Amended \$	Original \$
MINISTER'S OFFICE			
Salaries	743,576	748,000	750,300
Employee Benefits	2,929	4,800	2,000
Transportation and Communications	130,962	163,200	160,000
Supplies	8,021	11,800	13,000
Purchased Services	32,895	36,100	16,000
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	1,081	1,100	-
Total: Minister's Office	<u>919,464</u>	<u>965,000</u>	<u>941,300</u>
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT			
Salaries	821,592	845,700	1,003,000
Employee Benefits	4,026	7,000	3,000
Transportation and Communications	89,865	123,400	116,000
Supplies	15,362	19,200	18,000
Professional Services	3,500	3,500	-
Purchased Services	325,117	412,600	415,100
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	2,907	4,000	4,000
Grants and Subsidies	38,400	49,400	49,400
	1,300,769	1,464,800	1,608,500
Revenue – Provincial	(157,501)	(174,600)	(174,600)
Total: Executive Support	<u>1,143,268</u>	<u>1,290,200</u>	<u>1,433,900</u>
INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY ANALYSIS AND COORDINATION			
Salaries	618,047	647,400	707,400
Employee Benefits	2,030	2,100	-
Transportation and Communications	41,785	67,000	69,100
Total: Intergovernmental Policy Analysis and Coordination	<u>661,862</u>	<u>716,500</u>	<u>776,500</u>

	Actual \$	Amended \$	Original \$
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
SECRETARIAT***CURRENT***ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

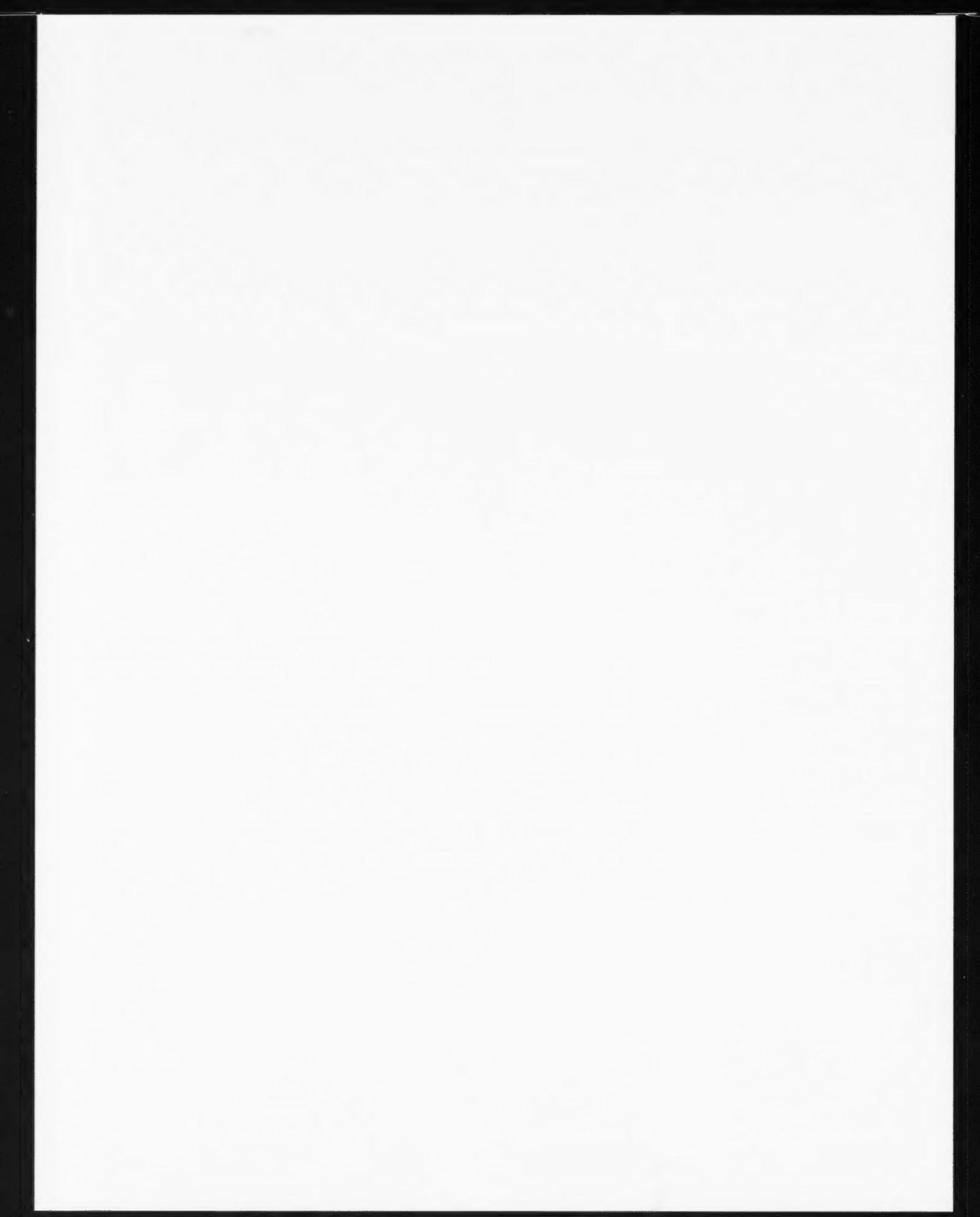
Salaries	738,631	874,800	875,800
Employee Benefits	564	1,000	1,000
Transportation and Communications	104,965	124,900	124,900
Supplies	24,586	27,100	15,300
Professional Services	29,555	38,700	38,700
Purchased Services	561,112	1,353,700	1,520,500
Property, Furnishings and Equipment	772	800	-
Grants and Subsidies	631,258	702,500	567,500
	2,091,443	3,123,500	3,143,700
Revenue – Provincial	(59,792)	(136,000)	(136,000)
Total: Aboriginal Affairs	<u>2,031,651</u>	<u>2,987,500</u>	<u>3,007,700</u>

OTTAWA OFFICE

Salaries	66,425	140,800	257,800
Transportation and Communications	3,469	22,100	25,000
Supplies	112	10,000	10,000
Purchased Services	162,972	164,900	95,000
	232,978	337,800	387,800
Revenue - Provincial	(6,000)	-	-
Total: Ottawa Office	<u>226,978</u>	<u>337,800</u>	<u>387,800</u>

**TOTAL: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND ABORIGINAL
AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT**

<u>4,983,223</u>	<u>6,297,000</u>	<u>6,547,200</u>
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**Intergovernmental and Aboriginal
Affairs Secretariat**